

DDI Trace

8 Jan 59

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Alger

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: My views as to reasons behind proposed nomination of Molotov

1. The upcoming 21st Party Congress seems clearly indicated to be an occasion at which the complete supremacy of Khrushchev over his rivals will be demonstrated. In many respects Molotov remains the most significant of these because of his Party seniority. In addition there have been rumors which may have some basis in fact that the Chinese are backing and prodding him as a counter to Khrushchev. If he were to remain at Ulan Bator there would be a danger of people at least speculating that he was in cahoots with the ChiComs, whereas in The Hague he would be isolated and clearly and publicly shown to be holding a sinecure.

2. Khrushchev has gained a very considerable popularity with the people at large and with high ranking party members by his refusal to engage in repressive terror against fellow Russian communists. Recently he has further clipped the wings of the secret police and has, of course, removed Serov. Mikoyan has stated here that there are "no political prisoners" in the Soviet Union. I know that George Kennan and other established experts are freely predicting trials and executions; yet I remain firmly convinced that in this they misunderstand and under-estimate the subtlety of Khrushchev. By public harangues and publication of

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Central Committee secret debates he has torn Molotov and the anti-Party group to ribbons as far as reputation and stature is concerned. To kill the empty body would get him no where and would cause a wave of horror to sweep through large sectors of Soviet public opinion.

3. Thus in my estimation by destroying the character of his rivals and then sardonically exiling them he is at least trying to have his cake and eat it too.

[Redacted Signature]

ROBERT AMORY, JR. ✓

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